

Amendments to the Drawings

Figures 3(b) and 4(b) have been amended to include the label “Prior Art” as requested by the Office Action. Replacement sheets with corrected drawings and annotated sheets are provided pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(d) in Appendix 1 of this paper.

REMARKSA. Status of the Drawings

Currently, the Examiner has objected to Figures 3(b) and 4(b), alleging that “only that which is old is illustrated”. In this paper, Applicant has labeled Figures 3(b) and 4(b) with the label “Prior Art” as required by the Office Action. Replacement sheets and annotated sheets are provided in Appendix 1, which is attached to this paper. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

B. Status of the Claims and Explanation of the Amendments

Prior to the submission of this paper, claims 1-14 were pending. Of these claims, claims 12-14 were withdrawn and claims 1-11 were rejected over cited references, as discussed below. In this paper, Applicant has added new claims 15 and 16. After these new claims have been entered, the claims presented for examination will be claims 1-11, 15, and 16.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 10 to clarify the invention further. These claims now recite, *inter alia*, “area light emitting element arranged directly on and supported by the substrate”. Support for these amendments is generally found throughout the specification [e.g., see specification, page 5, lines 5 to 14 and Figure 2]. Additionally, support for new claims 15 and 16 is found, for example, at page 6, lines 10-22. Applicant respectfully asserts that no new matter has been added.

Claims 1-6, 10, and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,870,160 to Yanagawa et al. (“Yanagawa”), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,370 to Smith Jr., et al. (“Smith”). Claim 1 has been rejected under 35

unpatentable over U.S. Published Appln. No. 2002/0089624 A1 to Matsumoto (“Matsumoto”) in view of Yanagawa. Claims 7 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Matsumoto and Yanagawa, in view of JP 10288705A to Aoki et al. (“Aoki”). Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yanagawa, and Smith, in view of U.S. Published Appln. No. 2002/0081453 to Hamada (“Hamada”).

C. Applicant’s Claims Are Patentable Over the Cited References

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Applicant’s claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Briefly, none of the cited references, alone or in combination, teach, disclose, or suggest all of the claim elements in Applicant’s claims. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn. MPEP §2143.

1. The Cited References Do Not Teach or Disclose Applicant’s “Area Light Emitting Device”

Applicant’s amended claims 1 and 10 are directed to an area light emitting device (1) that includes a transparent or translucent substrate (3) and an area light emitting element (2) arranged directly on and supported by the substrate (3). The substrate (3) includes a recess (30), in which the optical member (4) is accommodated. That is, the area light emitting device (1) includes a recess (30) for accommodating the optical member (4).

The features recited in claims 1 and 10 make it possible to make an optical device thinner, a technical challenge that is discussed in the originally filed specification [see page 2, lines 13-18].

In contrast, Matsumoto and Yanagawa merely discuss a backlight. However, Yanagawa and Matsumoto fail to disclose or suggest that the backlight includes a recess for accommodating an optical member. Accordingly, the backlights of Matsumoto and Yanagawa are not an “area light emitting device” as recited in Applicant’s claims. Furthermore, Applicant does not see where the other references cited by the Examiner teach, expressly or otherwise, Applicant’s “area light emitting device”.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references fail to teach, disclose, or suggest all of the claim elements in Applicant’s claims. For at least this reason, independent claims 1 and 10 are believed to be allowable, as well as corresponding dependent claims 2-9, 11, 15 and 16. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of these claims.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

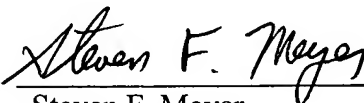
AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. 5000-5157. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. 5000-5157. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: January 18, 2006

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APPENDIX 1

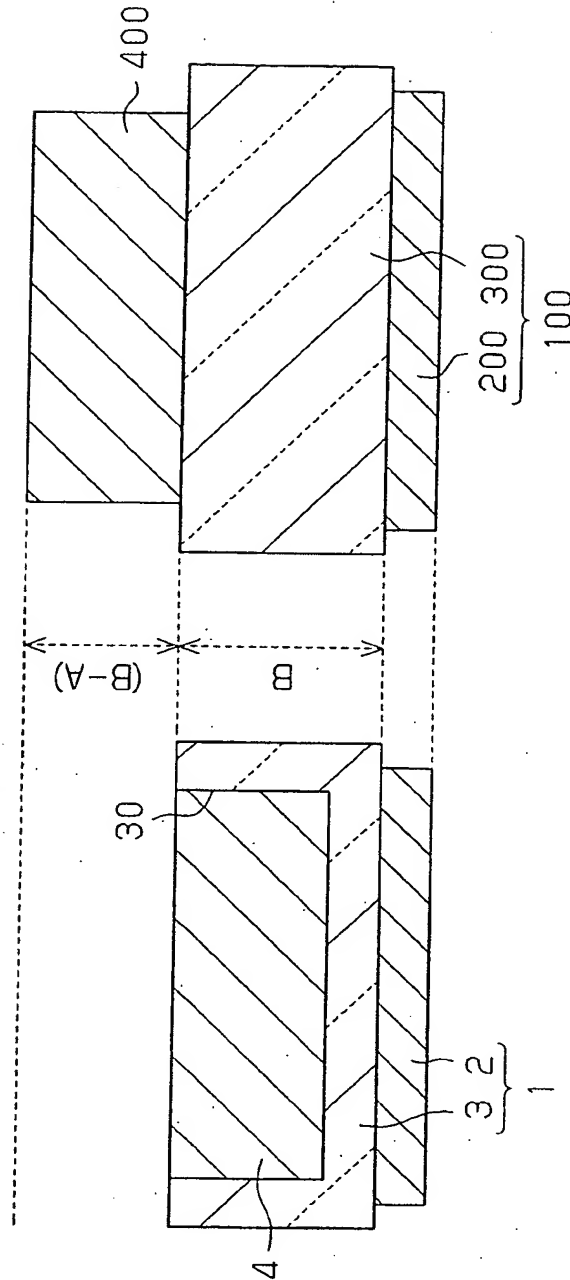
3/11



PRIOR ART

Fig. 3(b)

Fig. 3(a)



PRIOR ART

Fig. 4(a)

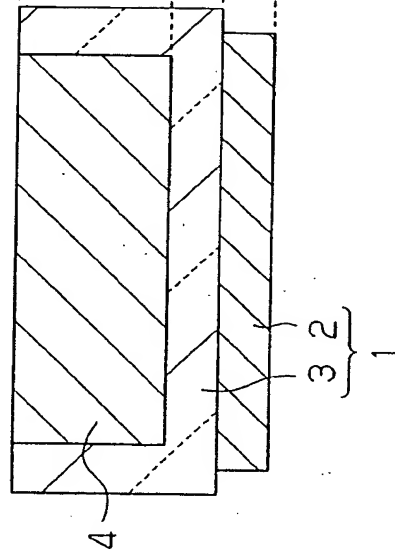


Fig. 4(b)

